



Montgomery Co. ATC Students Place in Top 10 at FBLA National Conference



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is one of the largest student organizations in Kentucky with approximately 9,000 members. Winning at the state conference is a tremendous honor for any student; walking on the stage at nationals is phenomenal. Any school would be honored to have just one student walk on stage at a national competition; Montgomery County ATC had four.

Montgomery County ATC Instructor Ronda Bowles, who teaches both office technology and information technology, chaperoned a total of six FBLA members on a journey to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Orlando, Florida during summer break. It was quite an experience – especially since Ronda had just recently undergone back surgery. Always a competitor, Ronda - who also holds the title of 2001 KY Tech Teacher of the Year - had no intention of staying home this year.

Photo left to right: Montgomery Co. ATC FBLA Students
Ally Sipes, Courtney Spencer, Katie Bowles, and Sara Sipes



After competing at the KY State Leadership Conference (KSLC), Courtney Spencer, Ally Sipes, Katie Bowles, Joe Boston, Brittany Hackworth and Sara Sipes wanted to attend the NLC. Montgomery Co. ATC's American Enterprise Team comprised of Courtney Spencer, Ally Sipes, and Katie Bowles finished first in their competition at KSLC and was afforded the opportunity to compete at nationals. The team performed a three-minute speech and then a seven-minute presentation to finally place seventh in the nation. Sara Sipes and Joe Boston both placed second at KSLC in contests entitled, Computer Applications and Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, respectively. Sara went on to place fourth in Computer Applications at the NLC.

The success of the Montgomery Co. ATC chapter of FBLA can be attributed to Ronda Bowles and the fantastic team of business teachers who promote leadership in every business class. Other teachers within the program include Angela Barker, Marissa Conway, Alicia Frazer and Barbara Drake. Principal Mike Kindred is also very supportive of their activities. Montgomery Co. ATC has a winning combination because of a dedicated team of business teachers along with a supportive principal.

“Ronda is an outstanding teacher and FBLA advisor who genuinely cares for every student. She is always with her students through every experience at national conference. She sees that the students are prepared for their competitions but also ensures that they have fun too,” says Kindred.

“The students from Montgomery Co. ATC are always very professional and take the competitions seriously. They attended the pre-national leadership conference to study for exams and perfect their performances. The three girls who performed in the American Enterprise competition were freshmen at the time of their wins at both the state and national levels,” says OCTE Academic Consultant Karen Bothun and OCTE’s representative to the NLC. “Most national winners in the performance events have a lot of

experience in national competitions and perfect their performance year after year before actually winning. To see these girls come out as freshmen to achieve a national honor is amazing. I cannot wait to see what they accomplish in the future.”

"The experience of competing was very 'cool' and I was glad that I had the opportunity to compete in my event and to place in the nation," says Katie Bowles.

"I was very excited to make it to nationals as a freshman group" says Courtney Spencer. “And the fact that we actually placed at nationals was even more exciting.”



Photo from left to right: Ronda Bowles and Karen Bothun

“The state FBLA organization has counted on Ronda many times to serve on the board and to chaperone students from her school as well as other schools. Ronda is also a role model for other teachers and advisors. I am especially proud of her work since she was one of my students at Morehead State University,” says Bothun.

“The students at Montgomery County ATC always strive for excellence. I am just extremely proud of their accomplishments. I’m also proud to be able to work with such a great team of co-workers,” says Bowles. “I am honored to be their advisor and to have had an opportunity to direct such a fine group of young leaders!”



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